



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Premium Energy Holdings, LLC

[Project No. 15002-000]

**Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting
Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Competing Applications**

On July 10, 2019, Premium Energy Holdings, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act, proposing to study the feasibility of the Walker Lake Pumped Storage Project (Walker Lake or project) to be located on Walker Lake and Walker River, near the community of Walker Lake, Mineral County, Nevada. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would be a closed-loop pumped storage hydropower facility. The applicant proposes three alternative upper reservoirs: Bald Mountain Reservoir, Copper Canyon Reservoir, or Dry Creek Reservoir. The existing Walker Lake would be the lower reservoir for each alternative.

Upper Reservoir Alternative 1: Bald Mountain Reservoir

The Bald Mountain Reservoir alternative consists of: (1) a 101-acre upper reservoir having a total storage capacity of 23,419 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 6,500 feet mean sea level (msl); (2) a 615-foot-high, 2,195-foot-long roller compacted concrete upper reservoir dam; (3) a 0.88-mile-long, 30-foot-diameter concrete-lined headrace tunnel; (4) a 0.3-mile-long, 27-foot-diameter concrete-lined vertical shaft; (5) a 1.85-mile-long, 27-foot-diameter concrete-lined horizontal tunnel; (6) five 0.15-mile-long, 17-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (7) a 500-foot-long, 85-foot-wide, 160-foot-high concrete-lined powerhouse located in an underground cavern, housing five pump-turbine generator-motor units rated for 400 megawatts (MW) each; and (8) a 0.45-mile-long, 32-foot-diameter concrete-lined tailrace tunnel discharging into the existing Walker Lake.

Upper Reservoir Alternative 2: Copper Canyon Reservoir

The Copper Canyon Reservoir alternative consists of: (1) a 235-acre upper reservoir having a total storage capacity of 36,266 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 5,740 feet msl; (2) a 505-foot-high, 6,105-foot-long roller compacted concrete upper reservoir dam; (3) a 0.56-mile-long, 35-foot-diameter concrete-lined headrace tunnel; (4) a 0.2-mile-long, 31-foot-diameter concrete-lined vertical shaft; (5) a 1.05-mile-long, 31-foot-diameter concrete-lined horizontal tunnel; (6) five 0.1-mile-long, 20-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (7) a 500-foot-long, 85-foot-wide, 160-foot-high concrete-lined powerhouse located in an underground cavern, housing five pump-turbine generator-motor units rated for 400 MW each; and (8) a 0.6-mile-long, 38-foot-diameter concrete-lined tailrace tunnel discharging into the existing Walker Lake.

Upper Reservoir Alternative 3: Dry Creek Reservoir

The Dry Creek Canyon Reservoir alternative consists of: (1) a 105-acre upper reservoir having a total storage capacity of 21,953 acre-feet at a normal maximum operating elevation of 6,560 feet msl; (2) a 775-foot-high, 6,870-foot-long roller compacted concrete upper reservoir dam; (3) a 0.98-mile-long, 29-foot-diameter concrete-lined headrace tunnel; (4) a 0.33-mile-long, 26-foot-diameter concrete-lined vertical shaft; (5) a 2.56-mile-long, 26-foot-diameter concrete-lined horizontal tunnel; (6) five 0.1-mile-long, 17-foot-diameter steel penstocks; (7) a 500-foot-long, 85-foot-wide, 160-foot-high concrete-lined powerhouse located in an underground cavern, housing five pump-turbine generator-motor units rated for 400 MW each; and (8) a 0.23-mile-long, 31-foot-diameter concrete-lined tailrace tunnel discharging into the existing Walker Lake.

Lower Reservoir: Walker Lake

The existing Walker Lake has a surface area of 32,120 acres at 3,920 feet msl, and a total storage capacity of 1.4 million acre-feet.

Interconnection

For each upper reservoir alternative, project power would be transmitted to the grid via: (1) a new, approximately 10-mile-long, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line extending from the powerhouse to the proposed Walker Converter Station (the point of interconnection); and (2) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Pyramid Lake Project under each of the alternatives would be 6,900 gigawatt-hours. .

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Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-15002-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of Commission's website at

<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-15002) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: September 30, 2019.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

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